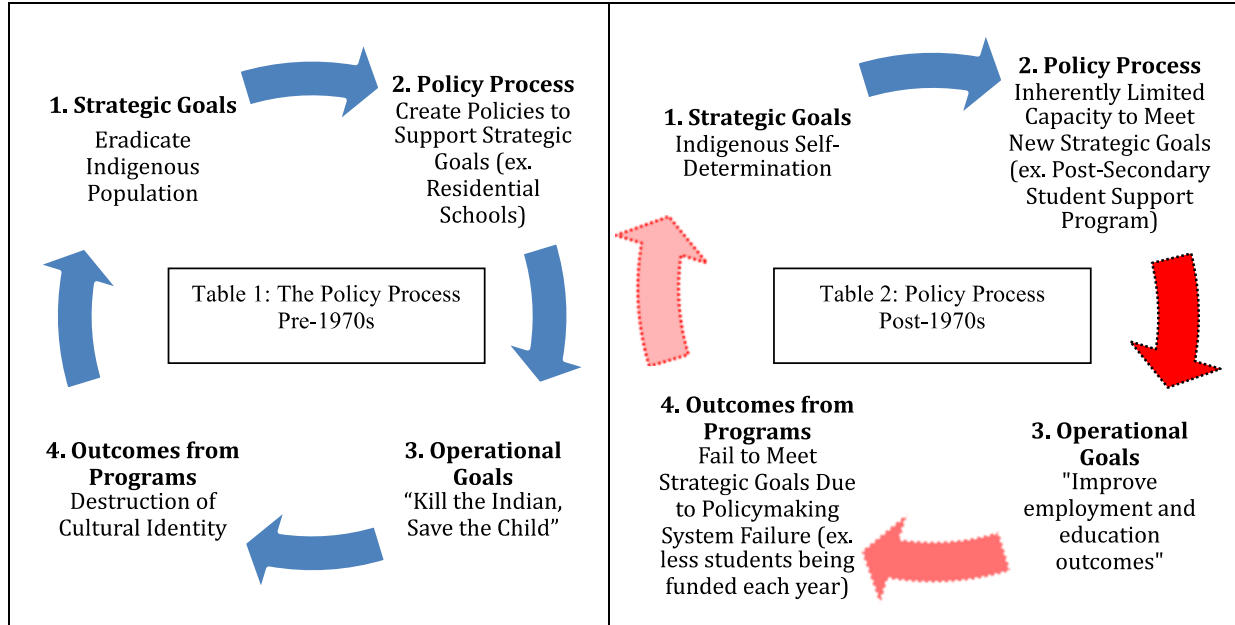


Flawed Filter & Policy Patchwork: Indigenous Children's Health & Education in Canada

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Figure 1: The Canadian Policymaking Process: Then and Now



Key Messages:

- **Health Gap** – Indigenous children in Canada suffer a greater burden of health inequities than all other children across the country (ex. higher infant mortality, lower immunization rates, higher rates of diabetes, poorer nutritional status, etc).
- **Social Determinants** – Socio-economic factors, including poverty, lower educational attainment, and poor housing directly affect health outcomes for Indigenous children.
- **Policy** – “Policy makers rarely critique or deconstruct the lexicon and procedures embedded in the policy culture itself...standard policy language and procedures are perceived to encourage economy and efficiency...[but] economy and efficiency can often compromise depth and diversity” (Kenny 2004).
- **Self-determination** – A study examining widely varying suicide rates across 80 First Nations bands in B.C scored each community on 7 measures of “cultural continuity” and found that communities with all seven factors had the lowest rates while those with none had higher rates of suicides. The seven factors included: self-government, involvement in land claims, band control of education, health services, cultural facilities, police and fire services (Chandler & LaLonde 1998).

Sources:

Chandler MJ, and Lalonde C. 1998. Cultural continuity as a hedge against suicide in Canada's First Nations. *Transcultural Psychiatry* 35: 191–219.

Canadian UNICEF Committee. 2009. *Canadian Supplement to the State of the World's Children 2009*. Toronto: UNICEF.